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EXPANDED USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES IN RUMANIA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

[Summary: By encouraging the use of local raw materials, wastes, and scraps Rumanian industry plans to conserve central stocks of raw materials and to increase local production of consumer goods, fuel, construction needs, and other items.]

Engineer Alexandru Tolpeghin, Stakhanovite and State Prize winner, declared in an article published in Viata Sindicala, that one of the chief means of increasing the supply of consumers' goods is the use of internal resources, wastes, and scraps. The collective of Steagul Rosu in Stalin [At which he is employed] has studied the use of scrap materials since 1949. At first, results were poor and too much time was spent in gathering wastes and scraps. Consequently, in the first half of 1951, 11.37 percent of scraps in the plant were used. As a result of further study and efforts, this rose to 28.65 percent in the second half of 1951. By making use of these scraps in production, consumer goods were manufactured and supplied to stores. A detailed work plan was set up to control variety and quantity. Goods not otherwise available were thus produced. Hundreds of thousands of bolts and nuts of various sizes, locks for metal containers, ferrules for tool handles, chisels, and other items with a total value of 3,056,200 old lei were produced. It was discovered that new products could be made from bronze scrap and other material. Thus, there was an increase in the production of horseshoes, forged screws, wall hooks, staples, hoes, and other items.

In January 1952, the people's council of Stalin organized an exhibit of consumer goods made from scraps by enterprises of the city. In February, the tonnage plan for the use of scrap was 43 percent fulfilled and the value figures were 28.5 percent fulfilled. In March, this increased to 53.6 percent overfulfillment, in April 30 percent, in May 39 percent by value. As a result of these successes, the use of wood scraps for the possible production of kitchen tables, children's desks, and other items was investigated, and the use of waste oils, furnace wastes, and abrasive powders was studied. (1)

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In Stalin Regiune, enterprises of local interest supply large plants with raw materials, semimanufactured goods, and food. The regiune people's council organized a conference with managements of large enterprises and those of local interest to further this collaboration. Large enterprises were encouraged to support the industrial activities of local plants by giving advice on labor, the maintenance of records, the introduction of Soviet methods, and by technical assistance. Thus, for example, Oltul in Sfantul Gheorghe was assisted by the Gheorghe-Doja enterprise in the installation of an elevator in the terra cotta plant. Strungul aided the small Gheorghe Dimitrov enterprise in the manufacture and repair of various items. The Gabor Aron enterprise in the manufacture and repair of various items. The Gabor Aron enterprise in Targui-Sacuesc received support from the CFR (Rumanian Railroads) shop in Stalin.(2)

Local industry in the city of Bacau is making great strides forward with the aid of large plants. In the machine shop of the local 23 August enterprise, for example, various small parts, motor gaskets, pistons, roller bearings, and ball bearings for large enterprises are produced.(3)

The Calugareni artisans' cooperative in Giurgiu surpassed its plan 50 percent and achieved great savings by using sheet-metal scrap.(4)

One of the duties of local organizations is to make maximum use of local resources for the development of local industry and for the increase of consumer-goods supplies. People's councils of Saveni Raion are carrying out this task successfully. The repair and building of mills permitted fulfillment of the food plan 103 percent. The stone quarries in Liveni and Manoleasa produced 171 tons of lime of good quality. Straw was used for baking the lime. A factory was established for the manufacture of buttons from mussels abundant in the Prut River. The entire production plan of 35,000 buttons was fulfilled. A factory was set up for the production of rope and mats from local resources. Pasta and spice cake are locally produced. A brick and tile kiln produced 50,000 pieces at a cost of 49,000 lei.

In Manoleasa, Adaseni, Avrameni, Borzesti, Hanesti, Vlasinesti, and Vorniceni hog and fowl raising has been introduced. Land owned by people's councils and industrial enterprises in Ungureni, Manoleasa, Saveni, and Avrameni were used to plant 24 hectares of barley, 4 of oats, 3 of corn, 23 of hemp, 3 of sorghum, and 4 of green vegetables. Fishponds were stocked in Avrameni, Hanesti, Draguseni, and Manoleasa. In Saveni, a soap of good quality was locally produced from oil residues mixed with 22 percent bentonite.(5)

In Dranagesti, Turnu-Magurele, and other raions in the vicinity, seven brick kilns were set up to prepare local materials for constructions (6). A cooperative in Braniste, Galati Raion, began production of baskets from willow withes.(7) In Ineu Raion, Arad Regiune, agrillaceous earth was used in the production of paint. Seven carloads of the material were exploited in Agrisul Mare. In Duda, seven carloads of clay were delivered to local enterprises for the production of refractory brick. In Selus, a pond covering 80 hectares was stocked with fish.(8)

The 1 Mai Artisans' cooperative in Husi manufactured 516 pairs of sandals in one month from leather scrap.(9)

The 11 June forestry combine in Roznov, Fatra Neamt Raion, established a section for the use of wood scraps and wastes. Seven lathes and other wood-working machines were set up to produce household objects and toys. The Hunedara construction enterprise set up a shop to produce vases, work tables, clocks, mallets, and other items from scraps. In the Progresul metallurgical plant, attempts were made to use wastes. For example, engineer Cornel Vasoiu pledged production of 500 kilograms of washers from scraps to overcome the lack of washers in the plant. Workers of CFR Turnu-Severin set up a special shop for the use of scrap metal. Using this material, Frantz Sabo and C. Anghel

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produced 15 worktables, 180 workbenches, and 30 saw blades having a total value of 5,000 lei. (10) The Buftea weaving mill developed a machine which utilizes cotton wastes. (11)

Local mining industries are of special importance to the national economy. They produce materials from local sources outside central state supply channels. They have been counted on to furnish numerous factories with local brown coal and lignite and thus save wood and petroleum. Large sums of money have been invested in an effort to expand the supply of fuels to factories from local sources. These mines of local interest are under the Ministry of Communal Administration and Local Industry [rather than under the Ministry of Coal Industries].

However, this sector has been unsatisfactory. Factories have suffered because local mines have not delivered the planned quantities of fuel. To determine the nature of the difficulties involved, the Ministry of Communal Administration and Local Industry organized a meeting at the Boresec mine in Mures Regiune with chiefs of local mines. It was learned that some of the small mines, such as the Ilieni mine in Sfantul Gheorghe Raion, Stalin Regiune, were successful. At this particular mine, the Soviet Golovin method was applied. Four shifts of miners working 24 hours a day fulfilled the mine 127 percent. The production plan was also overfilled at the Cucesti mine in Horezu Raion. The Rovinar mine in Targu-Jiu Raion began exploitation of new lignite faces.

On the other hand, errors were very common. Chiefs of mines showed lack of initiative and did not familiarize themselves with party laws and directives. The lack of control permitted hostile elements to work their way into mines in Valea Muschii and Ursadul, Oradea Regiune. Some raion enterprises failed to support the local mining effort. The Vasile Roaita enterprise in Raion Muscel, for example, misappropriated machinery which the ministry had destined for the Boteni mine. The Baia Raion People's Council failed to provide transport for coal from local mines. The Ministry of Communal Administration and Local Industry, was also at fault by its failure to provide mine timbers, tools, and protective clothing. Lunca-Negresti and Aliceni in Baia Mare Regiune did nothing to open new drifts.

Engineer Kekel (fau), chief of the Boresec mine, never went underground. He failed to mechanize the mine and to raise the standard of living or professional standard. There was a difference of 1,000 tons of coal between the amount of coal on hand and the record. Subengineer Gulea (fau), chief of the Mehalia mine, prevented the extraction of thousands of tons of brown coal by failing to repair an electric pump necessary for draining the mine. At the Boteni and Bandeda mines in Muscel Raion, the meaning of specific consumption is unknown. Stakhanovites are not supported at Boresec, Boteni, and Ilieni. Competitions are mere formalities at Boteni and Bandeda. Engineer Horwath (fau) placed an internal combustion engine in the Tauti mine in Baia Mare Raion. This is not permitted by safety regulations.

Local mines have failed to fulfill plans and have thus placed difficulties on the factories which depend upon them for fuel (12)

SOURCES

1. Viata Sindicala, 8 Jul 52
2. Romania Libera, 1 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 17 Jul 52
4. Viata Capitala, 7 Jun 52

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5. Romania Libera, 28 Jun 52
6. Ibid., 26 Jun 52
7. Viata Sindicala, 12 Jul 52
8. Scanteia, 15 Jun 52
9. Viata Sindicala, 4 Jul 52
10. Romania Libera, 7 Jun 52
11. Viata Capitalei, 16 Jun 52
12. Romania Libera, 9 Jul 52

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